<u>In the Claims</u>:

Please amend claims 11, 16, 19, 20, 23 and 26. The status of the claims is as follows:

1-10.   (Cancelled)

11.   (Currently Amended)   A pneumatic tire comprising:

a plurality of grooves formed on a tread portion, <u>the grooves each having at least one sidewall inclined with respect to the tire circumferential direction and extending at one angle to connect the tread portion with a bottom of the groove</u>; and

a plurality of blocks divided by the grooves, wherein

a ratio of a block facing length c to a width b of the grooves c/b is in a range of 0.50≤c/b≤1.30, wherein the block facing length c is obtained by selecting a pair of blocks adjacent to each other across a groove from a plan view of the tread portion, drawing perpendicular lines from two vertices of one block on a side of a sandwiched groove to other block across the sandwiched groove, respectively, connecting ends of the perpendicular lines on the one block by a first line segment along an outer circumference of the one block, connecting ends of the perpendicular lines on the other block by a second line segment along an outer circumference of the other block, and comparing lengths of the first and second line segments, the block facing length c being shorter one of the first and second line segments.

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12.   (Previously Presented)   The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein

the ratio of the block facing length c to the width b of the groove c/b is in a range of $1.00 \leq c/b \leq 1.30$.

13.   (Previously Presented)   The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein

a ratio of the block facing length c to a depth a of the groove c/a is in a range of $0.40 \leq c/a \leq 0.85$.

14.   (Previously Presented)   The pneumatic tire according to claim 13, wherein

the ratio of the block facing length c to the depth a of the groove c/a is in a range of $0.60 \leq c/a \leq 0.80$.

15.   (Previously Presented)   The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, further comprising:

at least three lines of a block array formed with a plurality of the blocks arranged in a tire circumferential direction.

16.   (Currently Amended)   The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein

~~the groove includes an inclined groove that is inclined with respect to a tire circumferential direction, and~~

a substantially net-shaped tread pattern is formed on the tread portion.

17.   (Previously Presented)   The pneumatic tire according to claim 16, wherein

an angle of inclination of the inclined groove is in a range between 30 degrees and 60 degrees.

18.   (Previously Presented)   The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein

a ratio of a depth a and the width b of the groove b/a is in a range of $0.6 \leq b/a \leq 0.8$.

19.   (Currently Amended)   The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein

a protrusion for suppressing a foreign-object drilling is formed in~~a~~ the

bottom of the groove.

20.   (Currently Amended)   A pneumatic tire comprising:

a plurality of grooves formed on a tread portion, the grooves each having at

least one sidewall inclined with respect to the tire circumferential direction and extending at

one angle to connect the tread portion with a bottom of the groove; and

a plurality of blocks divided by the grooves, wherein

a ratio of a block facing length c to a depth a of the grooves c/a is in a range of

$0.40 \leq c/a \leq 0.85$, wherein the block facing length c is obtained by selecting a pair of blocks

adjacent to each other across a groove from a plan view of the tread portion, drawing

perpendicular lines from two vertices of one block on a side of a sandwiched groove to other

block across the sandwiched groove, connecting ends of the perpendicular lines on the one

block by a first line segment along an outer circumference of the one block, connecting ends

of the perpendicular lines on the other block by a second line segment along an outer

circumference of the other block, and comparing lengths of the first and second line

segments, the block facing length c being shorter one of the first and second line segments.

21.   (Previously Presented)   The pneumatic tire according to claim

20, wherein

the ratio of the block facing length c to the depth a of the groove c/a is in a range of $0.60 \leq c/a \leq 0.80$.

22. (Previously Presented)   The pneumatic tire according to claim 20, further comprising:

at least three lines of a block array formed with a plurality of the blocks arranged in a tire circumferential direction.

23. (Currently Amended)   The pneumatic tire according to claim 20, wherein

~~the groove includes an inclined groove that is inclined with respect to a tire circumferential direction, and~~

a substantially net-shaped tread pattern is formed on the tread portion.

24. (Previously Presented)   The pneumatic tire according to claim 23, wherein

an angle of inclination of the inclined groove is in a range between 30 degrees and 60 degrees.

25.   (Previously Presented)   The pneumatic tire according to claim 20, wherein

a ratio of the depth a and a width b of the groove b/a is in a range of 0.6≤b/a≤0.8.

26.   (Currently Amended)   The pneumatic tire according to claim 20, wherein

a protrusion for suppressing a foreign-object drilling is formed in a the bottom of the groove.